Appointment of M.Ps. on various Government Committees|Commissions

4194. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Members of Parliament are appointed on the various Government Committees|Commissions without any set guidelines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of M.Ps. have been appointed on two or more Government Committees whereas some have not been appointed on any such Committee except Consultative Committees;

(c) what are the details of the M.Ps. who are on more than three Government Committees and what are the reasons for this preferential treatment; and

(d) whether the consent of the Prime Minister is obtained before the appointment of Members of Parliament on various Government Committees and if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No. Sir, While nominating Members of Parliament on various Government bodies, the field of interest of the Member, his|her past experience and his|her other assignments at the given time are kept in view. There are also certain Committees like the Telephone Advisory Committees, Postal Advisory Committees and Railway Users' Consultative Committees on which Members are nominated on the basis of their constituencies|permanent addresses.

(b) and (c) 202 Members belonging to both Houses are at present on two or more than two Government Committees. No preferential treatment is given to any Member in the matter of nomination on Government Committees. As stated in reply to part (a) of the Question, there are certain Committees on which Members are nominated on the basis of their constituencies|permanent addresses. This factor may result in some Members serving on more number of Committees.

(d) Hon'ble Prime Minister's approval is obtained in the case of important and High Powered Committees.

Measures for economic use of water

4195. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate programmes for public awareness regarding economic use of water keeping in view of water scarcity, and drought situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government have written or propose to write to States and various voluntary organisations in the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) This is being done through [illegible]ns, seminars etc. Water Resources Day is observed at various places in the country to create awareness of water as a scarce and valuable resource. Conservation of water is also covered in the draft National Water Policy. In the context of current water scarcity, the States affected by drought have been requested to review operational measures to ensure a more [illegible] regulation of reservoirs and to conserve water for optimum use. Instructions have been issued to State Governments to associate voluntary organisations in implementing drought relief works.

Supply of drinking water to each village in Gujarat

4196. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages in Gujarat at present are without drinking water